

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An electronic system, comprising:
2 a system board;
3 a connector mounted on the system board;
4 an electronic card attached to the connector, the card overhanging the
5 connector at least on an inward end of the card;
6 a guide secured to the system board, wherein the guide is adapted to
7 inhibit lateral movement of the card; and
8 a latch connected to the guide and adapted to aid in retaining the
9 electronic card in the connector.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide is adapted to provide a side
2 constraint which substantially prevents lateral flexing of the card at a point where the
3 guide contacts the card.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide contacts one or more side
2 surfaces of the card.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the guide contacts two opposed side
2 surfaces of the card.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide is positioned along a bottom
2 edge of the card.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the latch is adapted to cooperate with a
2 feature on the electronic card.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the latch is adapted to engage with an
2 opening in the electronic card.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the guide includes a side wall and the
2 latch is connected to the side wall.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the latch comprises a lever which pivots
2 about an axis which is parallel with a lengthwise axis of the connector.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the latch includes a base portion between
2 the pivot axis and the system board and wherein the base portion is adapted to aid in
3 the removal of the electronic card from the connector.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the guide and the latch comprises a one-
2 piece assembly.

1 12. A method, comprising: ~
2 providing a system board;
3 mounting a connector on the system board;
4 attaching an electronic card to the connector, the card overhanging the
5 connector at least on an inward end of the card; and
6 securing a guide to the system board spaced from the connector;
7 providing a latch connected to the guide;
8 inhibiting lateral movement of the card with the guide; and
9 inhibiting removal of the electronic card from the connector with the latch.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein inhibiting lateral movement of the card
2 comprises providing a side constraint with the guide which substantially prevents lateral
3 flexing of the card at a point where the guide contacts the card.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein inhibiting lateral movement of the card
2 comprises contacting one or more side surfaces of the card with the guide.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the guide contacts two opposed side
2 surfaces of the card.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the latch is adapted to cooperate with a
2 feature on the electronic card.

1 17. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 engaging an opening in the electronic card with the latch.

1 18. The method of claim 12, wherein the guide includes a side wall and the
2 latch is connected to the side wall.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the latch comprises a lever which pivots
2 about an axis which is parallel with a lengthwise axis of the connector.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the latch includes a base portion
2 between the pivot axis and the system board and wherein the base portion is adapted to
3 aid in the removal of the electronic card from the connector.